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NEW FOREST
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

on

Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions

of the

New Forest Rural District

for the Year 1952

Submitted to the Rural District Council

by

GEORGE HABGOOD, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health to the New Forest Rural District Council



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NEW FOREST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the New Forest Rural District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration my twenty-ninth annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of your district for the year ending December 31st, 1952.

STATISTICAL & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

Area (in Acres)	94,957
Estimated Resident Population	45,090
Estimated number of inhabited houses ...	12,817
Rateable Value 1st April, 1953	£350,431
Sum represented by a penny rate (for financial year ended 31st March, 1953) ...	£1,419. 19. 4½d.

The population as estimated by the Registrar General has increased by 190 over 1951.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

The district covers an area of 94,957 acres, approximately 148 square miles, comprising seventeen parishes and having a rising population, which has now reached an estimated 45,090. It is bounded on the East by the River Test and the Southampton Water, on the South by the Solent and the Lymington Borough, on the West by the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District Council and on the North by the Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District Council. The unique and predominating feature of the district is, of course, the ancient Crown Forest, a region of exceptional natural beauty and a home of ancient rights and privileges. The area within the perambulation of the Forest is some 92,000 acres, of which the larger portion lies within the boundaries of the Rural District. The principal industries in the Forest area are, naturally, forestry and agriculture, whilst in the areas outside the perambulation of the Forest, the waterside parts of the parishes of Eling, Marchwood, Dibden and Fawley, which contain the larger centres of population, are mainly industrial, including timber works, small shipbuilding yards, tar distilleries, the well known Esso Oil Refinery, and other light industries. These parishes are, therefore, mainly inhabited by industrial workers. The geological formation of the district is mainly made up of plateau gravel and sandy and marly clays.

Rainfall, Sun hours and Temperatures (as recorded at Southampton).

Month	Rain	Sun	Temperatures	
			Maximum	Minimum
January ...	2.115*	97.63	55	22
February ...	.645	96.79	51	25
March ...	2.64 *	94.04	58	30
April ...	1.735	164.16	75	31
May ...	2.73	231.21	79	43
June ...	1.09	247.97	83	40
July ...	.235	212.41	90.5	44
August ...	3.69	209.2	77	49
September ...	3.64	153.86	70	35
October ...	5.145	105.74	60	32
November ...	4.015	64.24	58	24
December ...	2.33 *	63.91	53	24

Total Rainfall = 30.01 inches. *Also Snow.

EXTRACTS OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births:

		Male.	Female.	Total
Legitimate	...	374	360	734
Illegitimate	...	18	19	37
		392	379	771
		—	—	—

Birth Rate:

Per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.....	17.09
Birth Rate for England and Wales.....	15.3
After application of Comparability Factor (1.07).....	18.28

Still Births:

	Male.	Female.	Total
Legitimate	7	5	12
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still births).....	17.8		
Rate for England and Wales.....			22.6

Deaths:

	Male.	Female.	Total
	242	181	423
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population...	9.38		
Death Rate for England and Wales.....			11.3
After application of comparability factor (0.99)	9.28		
Deaths from pregnancy, child birth or abortion.....	Nil		

Infantile Mortality:

	Male.	Female.	Total
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:			
Legitimate	15	6	21
Illegitimate	1	1	2

Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births.....	29.83
Rate for England and Wales.....	27.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births.....	28.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births.....	54.05

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:

			Male.	Female.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	13	6	19
Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	2
			—	—	—
			14	7	21
			—	—	—

The Chief Causes of Death were:

Heart Diseases	...	...	...	231
Cancer of all sites	...	...	...	65
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	...	...	...	21

The number of deaths fell from 492 (1951) to 432. There was an increase of 19 in deaths from heart disease, but deaths from cancer and pneumonia decreased by 48 and 16 respectively. There were no deaths from Measles or Whooping Cough. No conditions of occupation appear to have had a prejudicial effect upon health.

SUMMARY OF COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS

Year	Population	New Forest R.D.C.			England & Wales		
		I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.
1932	31,071	58.02	15.86	12.68	65	15.3	12.0
1937	36,130	40.57	17.74	11.12	58	14.9	12.4
1942	40,010	49.73	19.09	10.89	N.A.	15.8	11.6
1947	40,070	27.80	21.53	10.50	41	20.5	12.0
1948	41,200	35.39	19.19	9.26	34	17.9	10.8
1949	41,480	29.75	18.63	10.96	32	16.7	11.7
1950	44,200	21.11	15.99	10.92	30	15.8	11.6
1951	44,900	25.86	18.08	10.91	29.6	15.5	12.5
1952	45,090	29.83	17.09	9.39	27.6	15.3	11.3

N.A. Not available.

I.M.R. Infant Mortality Rate expressed as per 1,000 live births.

B.R. Birth Rate expressed as per 1,000 resident population.

D.R. Death Rate expressed as per 1,000 resident population.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:

- 1 Medical Officer of Health (part time).
- 1 Senior Sanitary Inspector.
- 1 Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector.
- 3 Additional Sanitary Inspectors.

A moiety of the salaries of all Officers is received under the Public Health Acts and the Sanitary Officers devote the whole of their time to their duties.

Laboratory Facilities:

For chemical examinations at the Southampton Corporation Laboratory and bacteriological examinations at the Public Health Laboratories, Winchester and Southampton.

A fee is charged by the Southampton Corporation. The Public Health Laboratories Service is directed by the Medical Research Council, for the Ministry of Health, and no fees are charged.

Ambulance Facilities:

Ambulance stations in the area are sited as follows:—

Avenue Road, Brockenhurst (B.R.C.S.)..... Tel. 3319
Haral, Ringwood Road, Totton..... Tel. 2120
Ynot, Holbury Drove, Fawley (S.J.A.B.)..... Tel. 217

Infectious cases (with the exception of smallpox cases for which special arrangements are made) are carried by both Brockenhurst and Totton Ambulances.

The County Ambulance Service has other stations adjacent to the area, at Christchurch, New Milton, Lymington, Romsey and Ringwood.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Nursing at Home:

Details of the General Nurses serving in the district who are able to give attention to cases at home on a Medical Certificate are:—

Boldre District..... Miss M. H. Mitchell, Knapton Cottage, Pilley. Tel. Lymington 564.
Brockenhurst District.... Miss F. D. Shiers, Nurse's Cottage, Meerut Road, Brockenhurst. Tel. 2380.

Dibden, Marchwood

and Hythe District..... Miss R. Wess, Three Firs, Atheling Road, Hythe. Tel. Hythe 2230.

East Boldre and

Beaulieu District....

Miss D. F. Bassett, Memorial Cottage, Beaulieu. Tel. Beaulieu 212.

Fawley District.....

Mrs. D. Clarebout, Nurse's Bungalow, The Pentagon, Fawley. Tel. 312.

Lyndhurst District.....

Miss D. Emery, 1 Church Cottages, Emery Down. Tel. Lyndhurst 250.

Netley Marsh District...

Miss H. M. Davies, 1 Regis Cottage, Bartley. Tel. Cadnam 3220.

Netley Marsh District.....	Miss J. Stubbs, Dell Cottage, Vicarage Lane, Copythorne. Tel. 3247.
Sway District.....	Mrs. M. F. Lipscombe, The Bungalow, Station Road, Sway. Tel. 314.
Totton (Midwifery).....	Mrs. King, Kingsmore, Testwood Lane, Totton. Tel. Totton 2191.
Totton (District Nurse and Midwife).....	Miss S. P. Alloway, 22 Players Crescent, Totton. Tel. 3256.

Home Help Service:

The object of the Home Help Service is to relieve the Mother of her household duties, or assist in the continued running of the Home according to the degree of need as substantiated by a Medical Certificate.

The Home Help Organiser in this area is - Mrs. E. Gould, 13 Stour Road, Christchurch.

Clinics and Treatment Centres:

(a) Speech Clinics:

Brockenhurst.....	British Legion Club. Fridays at 9.30 a.m.
Christchurch.....	Health Centre, Millhams Street. Thursdays at 9.30 a.m. & 1.30 p.m.
Lymington.....	Health Centre, New Street. Mondays & Fridays at 9.30 a.m.
Ringwood.....	Conway Hall, Ringwood. Fridays at 1.30 p.m.
Southampton.....	18, Archers Road, Southampton. Wednesdays at 9.30 a.m. & 1.30 p.m.
Totton.....	Health Centre, Rumbridge Street. Tuesdays at 9.30 a.m. & 1.30 p.m.

(b) Child Welfare Centres:

BLACKFIELD, Nissen Hut, Baptist Church.....	1st & 3rd Mondays. Dr. not in attendance 2nd & 4th Mondays.
BOLDRE, The Memorial Hall, Pilley.....	2nd Thursday in month.
BROCKENHURST, The Morant Hall.....	1st & 3rd Tuesdays.
COPYTHORNE, The Forester's Hall.....	1st & 3rd Thursdays.
DIBDEN PURLIEU, Women's Institute Hall.....	2nd Tuesdays.
EAST BOLDRE, The Parish Hall	1st Thursdays.
EXBURY, Women's Institute Hall.....	2nd Thursdays.
HYTHE, St. John's Hall.....	4th Tuesdays.

LYNDHURST, Church Room, Forest Gardens.....	1st & 3rd Wednesdays.
MARCHWOOD, The Church Room.....	1st & 3rd Tuesdays.
MINSTEAD, The Minstead Hut.	2nd Mondays.
SWAY, Women's Institute Hall...	2nd Tuesdays.
TOTTON, Old National Schools, Rumbridge Street.....	Fridays at 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.
(All Centres commence at 2 p.m. except where otherwise stated).	

(c) **Day Nurseries:** NIL.

SCHOOL CLINICS.

(i) **Dental Clinics:** (For School and pre-School children, expectant and nursing mothers).
Held at various Schools and Centres as required.
Requests for special appointments should be sent to the County Medical Officer.

(ii) **Minor Ailments:** (For School and pre-School children).
Totton..... Health Centre, Rumbridge Street.
Every Tuesday at 9.30 a.m.
Lymington..... Parish Hall.
Every Tuesday at 9.30 a.m.
(Children attend these Clinics without appointments).

(iii) **Ophthalmic:** (For School and pre-School children).
Held at Totton and Lymington. Attendance only by appointment from the County Medical Officer.

(iv) **Orthopædic Clinics:**
Totton..... Health Centre, Rumbridge Street.
Surgeon's Clinic..... 3rd Tuesday at 2 p.m. odd months.
Remedial Clinic..... Every Monday at 9.30 a.m. and
Wednesdays at 9.30 a.m. & 1.30 p.m.
Cases from the New Forest Rural District are also dealt with at Lymington Remedial Clinic, held at the County Council Health Centre, "Hillcroft," New Street, Lymington.

(v) **Tuberculosis Clinics:**
Totton - Health Centre, Rumbridge Street.
Wednesday at 9.45 a.m..... Previous Patients.
Thursday at 10.0 a.m..... Previous Patients.
Thursday at 3.15 p.m..... New Patients.
at 1.45 p.m..... A.P. Refills at Southampton Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Christchurch - Health Centre, Millhams Street.

Monday 10.0 a.m. & 2 p.m. Previous Patients.

Wednesday at 2 p.m. New Patients.

Wednesday 9.30 a.m. (Men) A.P. Refills at the

Wednesday 11.0 a.m. (Women) Douglas House Sanatorium.

(vi) Maternity Accommodation:

Maternity accommodation is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board and beds are provided at:—

Hythe Cottage Hospital, Hythe.

Fenwick Cottage Hospital, Lyndhurst.

Hill Rise Maternity Home, Lyndhurst.

Applications for the admission of normal cases for social reasons should be made to the County Medical Officer. Arrangements for the admission of abnormal cases and those requiring institutional confinement on account of other medical conditions should be made by the general practitioner obstetrician direct with the Institution concerned.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water:

The annual rainfall was less than for the two previous years. During the first eight months, it was below average and together with the very hot dry months of June and July, resulted in water shortage in parts of the district supplied by wells. Three requests for help were received from the Parishes of Bramshaw and Copythorne. Arrangements were made with the Fire Service for water to be supplied by tender, the cost falling upon the Owners. The areas involved come within the supply area of the Council's main laying Scheme for Bramshaw and Minstead which, it is anticipated, will be completed before the Summer of 1953.

The district is supplied with water by two Statutory Undertakers, The Southampton Corporation and the West Hampshire Water Company, the District Council (water being purchased in bulk from the Southampton Corporation) and two private Estates. The waterworks of both undertakings are situated outside the district.

The water supplied by the Southampton Corporation is obtained from deep wells in the chalk at Timsbury and Twyford, the water being softened by means of the "Lime" process and sterilised by "chloramination".

The water supplied by the West Hampshire Water Company is drawn from the River Avon at Christchurch and treated by primary and secondary filtration, and sterilised by "chloramination".

The results of routine examination of the waters of both undertakings carried out by the Public Health Laboratories are indicative of waters of high organic quality and bacterial purity.

The supply of the Southampton Corporation has been constant and adequate. This cannot be said of the area supplied by the West Hampshire Water Company. In the higher parts of Sway, East Boldre and Beaulieu, the supply has not been constant due to lack of capacity in the existing mains supplying water from Christchurch. Representations were made to the Company and I am informed measures, including the erection of a Water Tower at Beaulieu, are being taken by them to effect a permanent improvement.

In parts of the district outside the limits of supply of the Statutory Water Undertakings, i.e., Emery Down and the Parishes of Bramshaw and Minstead, the District Council have provided mains to serve Emery Down and the Scheme for supplying the Parishes of Minstead and Bramshaw (approximately 75% laid) in course of laying, is anticipated to be completed in May 1953, water being purchased in bulk from the Southampton Corporation.

To increase the pressure in the mains supplying the villages of Emery Down and Fritham, the construction of a high level reservoir (capacity 26,250 gallons) at Emery Down was commenced in September and a booster installed at Fritham.

In the village of Exbury, also outside the limits of supply of both undertakings, a piped supply in the houses is provided by the Exbury Estate. The source of supply is from a deep well some 300ft. deep, the water being pumped to a water tower, thence by gravitation to the houses and the Exbury School.

The Beaulieu village also has a piped supply in the houses provided by the Beaulieu Estate and in addition a supply is also available from the mains of the West Hampshire Water Company. The Estate supply is gravitational from an ancient spring known as the "Monks' Well" situated at Hill Top.

Thirty-six samples were taken for bacteriological examination from the District Council's Supply and the two Estate Supplies. All samples were satisfactory, coliform bacilli being consistently absent in 100ml.

During the year a total of forty-seven samples were taken from houses relying upon well water supplies. Twenty-six were found to be polluted. Informal and formal action resulted in twenty-six being connected to a main supply. In one case where formal action was taken, the Council carried out the work in default and recovered the cost.

The connection of properties to the recently laid extensions has again been followed up, and at the end of the year a

further hundred were connected, bringing the number up to four hundred and ninety-six of the total number (1,108) of properties provided for under the Scheme.

Four hundred and eighty visits were made in regard to water supplies generally.

Particulars of the number of Dwelling Houses and the number supplied from Public Water Mains

Parish	No. of dwelling houses	No. of dwelling houses connected to Mains	Remarks
Lyndhurst ...	786	774	679 connected to Southampton Mains. 95 to N.F.R.D.C. Mains.
Brockenhurst ...	764	746	Southampton Corporation Mains.
Copythorne ...	707	541	Southampton Corporation Mains.
Sway ...	644	572	West Hants Water Company Mains.
Fawley ...	1441	1356	Southampton Corporation Mains.
East Boldre ...	317	148	West Hants Water Company Mains.
Dibden ...	1078	905	Southampton Corporation Mains.
Marchwood ...	310	294	Southampton Corporation Mains.
Netley Marsh	581	404	Southampton Corporation Mains.
Eling ...	4270	4258	Southampton Corporation Mains.
Denny Lodge	181	* 58	Southampton Corporation and West Hants Water Company Mains.
Boldre ...	692	537	West Hants Water Company Mains.
Minstead ...	352	† 250	N.F.R.D.C. Mains.
Bramshaw ...	203	44	N.F.R.D.C. Mains in course of laying.
Rhinefield ...	49	29	West Hants Water Company Mains.
Beaulieu ...	341	‡ 264	Partly West Hants Water Company and partly Beaulieu Estate.
Exbury ...	101	§ 83	Exbury Estate Mains and Southampton Corporation Mains.

* Includes 32 Huts at Beaulieu Aerodrome.

† Includes 134 huts at Stoney Cross.

‡ 174 connected to West Hants Mains—90 to Beaulieu Estate Mains.

§ 17 connected to Southampton Corporation Mains.

(a) Total number dwelling houses in the district.....	12,817
(b) Number of dwelling houses connected to a Main supply.....	11,263
(c) Estimated number of population provided with a Main supply.....	39,533

No waters were found to have any plumbo solvent action and there were no known cases of plumbism.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Hythe section of the Dibden Main Drainage Scheme was completed in November and at the end of the year 15 properties had been connected thereto. The Dibden Purlieu stage has also been approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and it is anticipated a start will be made during 1953. A Scheme for the Parish of Fawley has also been submitted to the Ministry. No extensions of the existing sewers in the Parishes of Eling, Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst have been made.

The Main Drainage Scheme for the Parish of Sway and an extension of the Eling sewers to serve the Pottersford Area of Woodlands have been postponed.

During the year two hundred and thirty-six inspections were made and the following work carried out:—

(a) Defective drains repaired and cleansed.....	54
(b) Defective and insufficient sanitary accommodation dealt with.....	16
(c) Sinks and sink waste drainage provided.....	18
(d) Defective cesspits dealt with.....	23
(e) Properties redrained and connected to public sewer.....	15
(f) New drainage systems provided discharging into cesspits.....	10

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Several streams in parts of the district where no main drainage is provided are polluted by overflowing cesspits and while every effort is made to obviate this pollution, one is seldom able, by reason of economic and physical considerations, to effect a permanent remedy.

The effluents from the twelve sewage disposal works in the district discharge into streams. During the year the Hampshire Rivers Board took thirty-four samples of these effluents, of which 16 were satisfactory, 10 unsatisfactory and 8 most unsatisfactory.

The Council are taking active steps to extend the works at Bartley and Eling, where the effluents are unsatisfactory, as referred to in my last Report.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

An uninterrupted fortnightly collection of domestic refuse and weekly collection of trade refuse with additional collections from beaches and litter baskets as and when required, has been maintained during the year.

The complement again fluctuated, but replacements were obtained and for the greater part of the year was at full strength. It was again found impracticable to employ casual labour and to prevent any break in the service so that the men may take their annual holiday, overtime was worked - a method which once more proved satisfactory.

An average of 4.7 days per man were lost through sickness, an average which would appear to compare favourably with other manual and industrial activities.

The complement consists of a foreman and twenty-four personnel.

Transport remains the same as in former years, i.e., seven ten cubic yard Dennis side loading vehicles and a van for general duties.

The 8 h.p. Ford van (first registered 1933) had become uneconomical to maintain and was replaced by a 10 h.p. Austin Van in the early part of the year and one of the collecting vehicles had a reconditioned engine replacement and a complete overhaul. The bodywork on the oldest vehicle in service (12 years old) was also repaired and made good.

All vehicles can be considered to be in good mechanical condition.

All refuse is disposed of by the Controlled Tipping method on four sites at Marchwood, Stoney Cross, Fawley and Sway. The underlying principles of this method require the refuse to be deposited in shallow layers, not more than six feet in depth and covered on all sides with soil or other suitable material which will form an effective seal.

To secure proper control of the tip "face" and to restrict the exposure of raw refuse, the practice adopted here is to form the tips in sections, each section being covered as tipping proceeds, the whole being consolidated by the weight of the vehicles and the use of hand rams to eliminate cavities and air pockets. In this way, biological changes take place giving rise to a high temperature, thereby rendering the organic matter inert and free from nuisance. In addition to its sanitary merits as a method of disposal, low lying and derelict land can be reclaimed for recreational purposes, etc., and in this way, the Rumbridge Site at Totton which was completed in 1947 is now being used for this purpose.

The supply of covering material has not always been easy, but, on the whole, the tips have been maintained satisfactorily. The practice of uncovering tips and sorting over the refuse by gypsies and similar types was again prevalent during the year, causing a great deal of unnecessary work and destroying the controlled method of tipping. There is also a danger of creating a tip fire, which can be very costly and troublesome to deal with, as well as a nuisance.

There was a small increase in the revenue from trade refuse - £311 as against £297 in 1951, the number of Agreements being 79. The Public Health Act 1936 requires a local authority to make a reasonable charge for collection of trade refuse and the annual charges for this service are based on the following rates for a weekly collection:—

<i>No. of Bins.</i>	<i>Approx. cost per Bin.</i>	<i>Annual Charge.</i>
1	9d.	£2. 2. 0d.
2	8d.	£3. 13. 6d.
3	8d.	£5. 5. 0d.
4	8d.	£7. 7. 0d.
5	8d.	£9. 9. 0d.
Over 5	—	£10. 10. 0d.

Summary of Work:—

No. of premises	No. of loads	Equivalent to approx. tons	Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 pop. per day	Trade Refuse Agreements	Gallons petrol used	Mileage
12,817	3327	9.981	12.1	79	7916	66,367

DETAILS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE—COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL—Year ending 31st March, 1953.

Item	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wages 8,975 12 6						
Protective Clothing 293 2 1						
Tools, Implements, etc. 20 17 1						
Transport Costs (including £740 to Sinking Fund) 3,423 17 1						
Sundries—(Rents, Rates, Insurances, maintenance of Depot, etc., including £119 installation of petrol tank and pump) 325 14 6				13,039	3	3
<i>LESS</i> Gross Income (Salvage and Trade Refuse) 1,217 9 6						
Net Expenditure—Collection and Disposal 11,821 13 9						
Net cost per 1,000 population £262 2 10						

Salvage Collected and Disposed:

Period 1st January to 31st December, 1952

Articles	Tons.	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste paper and cardboard	182	4	2	16	1,357	10	4
Textiles	8	7	1	0	221	18	0
Scrap Metals	7	2	2	0	24	2	1
TOTALS	197	14	1	16	1,603	10	5

CESSPIT EMPTYING.

The Council undertakes the cleansing of cesspits in those parts of the district where public sewers are not provided. The work is carried out by Contract with the Hampshire Cleansing Service and pits are cleansed at intervals of approximately, but not less than six months. The Contract prices are:—

- (1) 24/- for a cesspit not exceeding 1 load of 1,000 gallons.
- (2) 29/- for a cesspit exceeding 1 load of 1,000 gallons.
- (3) Business premises with cesspits having a capacity of more than 2,000 gallons - 29/- for the first 2,000 gallons and 24/- for every additional 1,000 gallons.

During the year the Contractor invoked the "rise and fall" Clause, due to the increased tax on petrol, which took effect on the 12th March, 1952, resulting in an increase of 7d. per pit on the above charges.

The Scale of Charges was negotiated by the Chairman of your Committee and from information received from other County Districts, the Council appear to have a very favourable contract. The Contractor has carried out the work efficiently, which is reflected in the fact that only a few minor complaints were received from householders during the year. These complaints were taken up with the Company and were promptly and satisfactorily dealt with.

At the end of the year 2,513 properties were receiving the service, an increase of 160, made up of applications in respect of existing houses where the householder had not taken advantage of the service previously, and new house built in unsewered areas. It is inevitable that although the Council are active in providing sewerage schemes, in the urbanised portions of the area, the number of new applications for this service will continue to increase for some time to come as a result of new building in the unsewered areas.

The annual cost of the service to the Council was £5,218 - equivalent to 2.07£ per property.

Cleansing of cesspits on Council Housing Estates is carried out by the Council's own staff and plant, under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector. A 750-gallon Dennis Emptier and a crew of two are employed. Protective clothing is issued as in the case of other cleansing personnel. There was no loss of time due to sickness. The Emptier had a reconditioned engine replacement and a complete overhaul during the year and can now be considered in good mechanical order.

During the year, 2,111 loads, equivalent to 1,583,250 gallons, or 8 loads per day, were taken out and disposed of, an output on a parallel with that performed under Contract. The annual cost of carrying out this service is £1,700.

SWIMMING POOLS.

As in previous years, the swimming pool at the Girl Guide Headquarters, "Foxlease", Lyndhurst, was again in use during the summer months. The pool is an outdoor static type, of concrete construction, having a capacity of approximately 45,000 gallons, and is filled from the Southampton Corporation Water Mains.

The agreement between the Association and the County Education Authority continued, and about 400 children from the Bartley Secondary Modern School used the pool in June and July.

Fifteen samples were taken for bacteriological and chemical examination. The general standard was reasonably good, having regard to control being dependent upon the fill and empty system, and hand chlorination.

The Staff have again been most helpful, and have carried out the advice given in regard to water change, dosage, cleansing of the pool after emptying and other relevant matters.

There was only one other pool open to the public during the year. This is situated in the grounds of "Hill House Hotel", Lyndhurst. It is of similar type and construction to the one at "Foxlease", having a length of 40 feet, a width of 16 feet, and an overall depth of 5 feet, giving a total capacity of 20,000 gallons; it is filled from the Southampton Corporation Water Mains.

Owing to inclement weather, the pool was only in use for approximately three weeks during the month of July, and the total number of bathers was 50. During that time six samples were obtained and submitted for analysis. Treatment was on the same lines as that at "Foxlease".

HOUSING.

Number of Houses erected by the Council during the year:—

Beaulieu	...	...	...	...	...	6
Eling	...	...	...	...	...	83
Minstead	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dibden	...	...	...	...	...	100
Sway	...	...	...	...	...	5
Boldre	...	...	...	...	...	20
Brockenhurst	...	...	...	...	...	10
Fawley	...	...	...	...	...	4
						—
				Total	...	231
						—
Number erected during 1951	...	...	...			174

Number of Houses erected by Private Enterprise:—

Fawley	...	...	...	...	...	19
Dibden	...	...	...	...	...	13
Minstead	...	...	...	...	...	3
Marchwood	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sway	...	...	...	...	...	1
Eling	...	...	...	...	...	17
Copythorne	...	...	...	...	...	3
Netley Marsh	...	...	...	...	...	4
Boldre	...	...	...	...	...	5
Lyndhurst	...	...	...	...	...	2
Brockenhurst	...	...	...	...	...	1
						—
				Total	...	70
						—
Number erected during 1951	...	...	...			38

Particulars of Houses owned by the District Council:—

Beaulieu	...	...	...	...	...	34
Boldre	...	...	...	...	...	72
Brockenhurst	...	...	...	...	...	118
Copythorne	...	...	...	...	...	30
Dibden	...	...	...	...	...	126
East Boldre	...	...	...	...	...	10
Eling	...	...	...	...	...	504
Fawley	...	...	...	...	...	222
Lyndhurst	...	...	...	...	...	32
Marchwood	...	...	...	...	...	45
Minstead	...	...	...	...	...	3
Netley Marsh	...	...	...	...	...	18
Sway	...	...	...	...	...	47
						—
				Total	...	1261
						—

Number of Families in hutted accommodation at the end of the year:—

Stoney Cross Aerodrome	...	...	132
Setley Plain, Brockenhurst	...	...	93
Site 4, Beaulieu Aerodrome	...	...	25
Veal's Farm Camp, Marchwood	...	...	6
			—
	Total	...	256
			—

During the year Yew Tree Heath Camp was de-requisitioned and returned to the War Department. The 23 families were rehoused by the Council. 13 huts on other camp sites considered to be unfit for further re-letting were closed.

The action of the Council in pruning the use of these hutted camps as circumstances allow is commendable.

They cannot be accepted as satisfactory permanent housing accommodation either in a social or physical sense and, notwithstanding the large number of houses built by the Council, it is regrettable that the housing problem still requires emergency measures, and that these huts must be utilised for some considerable time to come.

The housing problem shows no sign of solution. Although during the year a further 231 houses have been built by the Council and 70 by private enterprise, bringing the total post-war building up to 1,336, the waiting list for Council houses grows no less, and at the end of the year was still 1,200.

The following abridged table of the vital factors influencing the housing need of the district will illustrate the extent of the problem:—

Year	No. of applications on Waiting List	Houses built			Population of District	Births	Deaths
		Council	Private Enterprise	Total			
1947	977	167	28	195	39,130	863	423
1948	942	127	12	139	41,200	791	381
1949	926	176	39	215	41,800	773	455
1950	1050	162	32	194	44,200	707	483
1951	1200	174	38	212	44,900	812	492
1952	1200	231	70	301	45,090	771	432

The Table does not include the number of houses built in the years 1945 and 1946, when a total of 80 were built - 66 by private enterprise and 14 by the Council.

The Table shows that the total number of births exceed the total deaths by 2051. The population having increased by 5,960, the difference of 3,909 would, therefore, very largely

reflect the influx into the district as a result of industrial development, principally by the extension of the Esso Refinery, which commenced in 1949. The problem has, therefore, been widened and complicated as a result of this development, attracting substantial numbers of people from other districts, the majority of whom require housing accommodation.

The unfit dwellings in the district to be dealt with under the statutory provisions of the Housing Acts have not been included in the Table. The number falling within this category being approximately 800 further accentuates the problem !

If these basic factors are accepted as providing a realistic measure of the housing need in the district, there can be no complacency in tackling this problem, and the tempo of the building rate must needs be accelerated considerably before a final solution can be foreseen.

Unfit Houses:

A further six dwellings were represented under Section 11, Housing Acts 1936/49. Since this attenuated form of "slum clearance" was commenced in 1949, 22 dwellings which were unfit by reason of disrepair and sanitary defects and not capable of being made fit at a reasonable cost have been dealt with. The results are as follows:—

(a) Number of dwellings in respect of which "Demolition Orders" were made.....	11
(b) Number of dwellings in respect of which undertakings were accepted.....	11
(c) Number of persons rehoused as a result of (a) and (b).....	89

Other Unfit Housing Accommodation:

In view of the continuing restrictive circumstances, action has again been directed to what is practicable rather than what is desirable in dealing with housing repairs and defects.

540 Inspections were made for this purpose and the following items remedied at the end of the year:—

Defective roofs.....	28
Defective floors.....	15
Dampness abated.....	19
Major items of disrepair and defects (including improvement of lighting and ventilation).....	24
Other items of disrepair (including defective eaves gutters and down pipes, fireplaces and ceilings).....	19

One Statutory Notice was served but not complied with at the end of the year.

New Forest Gypsy Compounds:

The conditions under which the inhabitants of these compounds live have not changed, and no progress has been made regarding the provision of new sites. The long term policy, however, for "up-grading" and rehabilitating suitable families by re-housing in huttied accommodation at Stoney Cross has continued.

A system of licensing as suggested by the District Council and agreed with the Forestry Commission for the subsequent abolition of the Compounds, by excluding occupation by new families taking the place of those rehoused, was also introduced and enforced by the Deputy Surveyor, Forestry Commission.

The Housing Officer informs me there has been an improvement in the standard of cleanliness among a few families rehoused, and that it was found possible during the year to allocate a Council house to one family. There has also been a marked decrease in the number of families (as will be seen from the Table) at Shave Green Compound, so that a combination of both principles has gained some measure of success in solving this complex problem.

A further 16 families were re-housed at Stoney Cross during the year - 15 from Shave Green and 1 from Longdown. The number of families re-housed and the number remaining in Compounds at the end of the year as compared with 1951 is as follows:—

(1) Number of families re-housed from:—

		1951	1952
(a) Shave Green	...	7	15
(b) Longdown	...	2	1
(c) Broomhills	...	1	—
		—	—
Totals	10		16
		—	—

(2) Number of families remaining at:—

(a) Shave Green	...	30 (117 persons)	14 (48 persons)
(b) Longdown	...	15 (74 persons)	14 (55 persons)
(c) Broomhills	...	15 (76 persons)	16 (58 persons)
		—	—
		60 (267 persons)	44 (161 persons)
		—	—

Three families were re-housed from a small compound at Brockenhurst in 1947, when the Compound was closed down. The number of families now re-housed by the Council from the Compounds, total 29.

Whilst the principle of rehabilitating suitable families by way of re-housing in huttied accommodation with eventual promotion to Council houses has met with some success, difficulty in finding a solution to deal with what might be termed the

“unresponsive” ones still confronts us. Many hypothesis have been advanced to this end but, based upon my experience of this latter type, I cannot feel optimistic of a final solution.

Verminous Premises:

Two dwellings were found infested with fleas, one being a property requisitioned by the Council. The necessary action was taken.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

One new site licence was issued, one amended and one refused, bringing the number of sites up to 8, with accommodation for 183 movable dwellings. An unlicensed site containing 13 caravans (as a result of industrial development in the Parish) was referred to the Planning Authority, but no action had been determined at the end of the year.

In regard to individual caravans, 13 new licences were issued and 7 were not renewed at the end of the year. Of the 13 new licences, three were subsequently refused Planning permission. The number of licences in force at the end of the year was 31, an increase of six. This number does not, of course, reflect the true number of caravans in the district. Many others are stationed in isolated places and licensing in these cases appears superfluous. Camping is also permitted on the unenclosed lands of the New Forest. Permits are issued by the Forestry Commission on payment of an appropriate charge. Byelaws made under the New Forest Act are in force regulating camping and applicants have to comply with the conditions of the permit regarding satisfactory sanitary arrangements.

Whilst a reasonably accurate estimate of the maximum number of campers resident in the district at one time during the summer season is impracticable, there is a considerable influx of caravans and camping parties. This healthy form of holiday-making presents no problem in practice and conditions tantamount to a sanitary nuisance are rarely found.

The existing licensed sites, although intended for holiday purposes, are largely used by permanent caravan and hut dwellings, resulting from lack of housing - a condition which is to be deplored.

This form of housing when the caravan is properly designed and constructed, and given satisfactory environmental conditions, is suitable for some families, but when caravans are of inadequate size, of unsatisfactory construction and design, and young children are involved, they cannot be considered suitable, either from a health point of view, or as a satisfactory environment for their up-bringing.

It is quite evident, however, that, inseparable as it is from the overall housing problem, inevitably the utilisation of this

type of dwelling as housing accommodation will increase and continue to do so for some considerable time. It appears to me that these circumstances are such that only a constructive and apposite approach can be taken, and controlled sites with adequate sanitary facilities are, therefore, the only means of dealing with this problem, until more housing accommodation is available.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949 AND THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS (THRESHING AND DISMANTLING OF RICKS) REGULATIONS 1950.

The above Acts and Regulations are under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. In carrying out the duties imposed upon the Local Authority, a Staff of two are kept fully employed

The Block Control system is carried out whenever practicable on a minor scale only, owing to the number of complaints received and the amount of work arising therefrom. A great deal of time is taken up in the inspection of banks, ditches and hedgerows, which are the cause in many cases of property becoming infested. This source of infestation is given periodical inspection.

The Hampshire Agricultural Executive Committee carry out the work of disinfection on agricultural property and any infested areas found or brought to the notice of the Council are passed to their Pests Officer at Winchester.

The service charge for business property is levied on the Rateable Value of the premises, a free service being given if re-infestation occurs within six months. The number of retreatments has been small. Private property is serviced free of direct charge. A number of major infestations have been found during the year and dealt with.

All Council owned property, including Refuse Disposal Sites, Sewage Disposal Works and Camp Settlements, etc., have been inspected and serviced where necessary and are free of infestation generally. During the year 250 complaints were received and 549 premises found to be infested were treated for Rats or Mice, or both. Not included in this number were 47 business premises.

The results obtained were as follows:—

No. of Premises Treated	No. of dead picked up		Approximate Kill	
	Rats	Mice	Rats	Mice
596	662	158	5343	2639

SCHOOLS.

There has been no significant change in any of the 25 Schools under the control of the County Council.

At Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst, Totton and Colbury, the Schools have water-borne sanitation connected to the public sewers. The Exbury, Hardley and South Baddesley Schools also have water-borne systems connected to a sewage disposal plant at Hardley and to cesspools at the other two Schools.

Minstead School was connected to the water mains in the latter end of the year, leaving Bramshaw the only School in the district not so provided. A mains supply will be available for the School to be connected to in 1953.

School meals are provided at all Schools, and in most are eaten in the class rooms. I regret having to report no progress in providing water-borne sanitation in those Schools having a main water supply and conservancy systems.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

390 Inspections were made during the year and the following work completed:—

Dirty floors cleansed.....	5
Defective floors repaired.....	3
Dirty walls cleansed and redecorated.....	15
Defective wall repaired.....	2
Dirty ceilings cleansed, repaired and redecorated.....	12
Dirty window frames, doors, etc., redecorated.....	7
Food room fittings cleansed, repaired and renewed.....	5
New water heaters provided and fixed.....	5
Dirty yard paving cleansed.....	1
Defective yard paving renewed.....	1
Dirty passages cleansed, repaired and redecorated.....	1
Offensive accumulations removed.....	8
New buildings constructed.....	1
New washing accommodation provided.....	1
Additional sanitary accommodation provided.....	3
Improved drainage and sanitary accommodation	6
Dirty sanitary accommodation cleansed and redecorated	3
Buildings fly proofed.....	2
Structural improvements to existing buildings	2
Improved and additional ventilation.....	1

Food Factories:

The only food factory in the district, which produces pork pies, sausages, pressed meat, etc., has not given any trouble. No complaints have been received and it has been run in a reasonable manner.

Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:

No complaints were received with regard to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and no formal action was found necessary under the above Byelaws. A long overdue improvement in these Byelaws would be the prohibition of the use of newspaper, etc., for the wrapping of unprotected food.

Clean Food Campaign:

No Clean Food Campaigns were held during the year. Individual instruction was given on numerous occasions with satisfactory results. It is felt that in an area of this nature this method is more suitable and more fruitful.

Ice Cream:

108 Premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, an increase of six over the number in the register last year. Four premises are registered for the purposes of manufacture or sale, although, as in previous years, only one establishment in the district is actually manufacturing ice cream.

During the year 119 inspections were made and 213 samples taken and submitted for examination by the methylene blue reduction test as recommended by the Ministry of Health. The samples were graded as follows:—

Grade I - (very satisfactory).....	167
Grade II - (satisfactory).....	26
Grade III - (unsatisfactory).....	10
Grade IV - (very unsatisfactory).....	10

The 20 samples placed in Grades III and IV (approximately 9.4%) were obtained from 13 vendors selling ice cream made by 7 different manufacturers. It is pleasing to note that the only manufacturer in this district, who caused us a little trouble last year, has greatly improved; out of the 78 samples taken from the premises, 73 were placed in Grade I and 5 in Grade II. This was achieved by a change in the management and careful and constant supervision by the Department.

A copy of the analyst's report on each sample was sent to the manufacturers and vendors, and where Grades III and IV were indicated in ice cream manufactured outside the district, copies of the report were sent to the Authorities concerned.

Ice lollies have gained in popularity to a remarkable degree, and we now find that all the well known Ice Cream Manufacturers are making "lollies" in one form or another; most of these are tasty, I am told, colourful and shaped to attract children of all ages. The "home-made" variety are undoubtedly very poor products and consist of little more than lumps of frozen coloured water; however, there must be no confusion between quality and purity; the Minister of Food

has not yet found it practicable to introduce a standard of quality for ice lollies, and poor quality does not necessarily imply danger to health. 24 Samples were taken and examined by means of the methylene blue reduction test, the result being Grade I in every case.

During the year the Ministry of Food announced that in order to avoid a reduction in the supply of ice cream, it was necessary to modify the standard for ice cream which was introduced in March 1951.

Milk powder and fats could not be allocated to ice cream manufacturers at the same rate as in 1951. If the original standard was maintained, there would have been a fall in the supplies of ice cream. The Minister accordingly decided to reduce the minimum fat content from 5% to 4% and the minimum non-fat milk solids content from 7½% to 5%.

For ice cream containing fruit, fruit pulp or fruit puree, a consequential reduction from 7½% to 6% has been made in the fat content and from 25% to 11% in the total content of fat, sugar and non-fat milk solid. Similarly, the fat content of "Parev" (Kosher) Ice has been reduced from 10% to 8%.

No complaints were received with regard to sale or manufacture of ice cream; out of a total of 108 premises on the register, only 10 were used for the sale of "bulk" ice cream. It is indeed gratifying to know that approximately 90% of the ice cream sold in this district is pre-packed, and manufactured by reputable firms.

The itinerant vendor was not so conspicuous during 1952; this could have been due to poor weather, especially at weekends, or possibly to the strict attention paid to every "foreigner" by the Department.

Licensed Premises:

There has been very little change in the conditions found at licensed premises. No complaints were received and no insanitary circumstances discovered.

The publicans appear hygienically minded and make every endeavour to give the public a clean, considered service. All licensed houses where a supply of electricity or gas is available have washing up facilities with a ready supply of hot water in the bars. The state of cleanliness generally was of good standard.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections.....74

Slaughtering in private slaughter houses is still prohibited under the Defence Regulations; the 12 registered and 5 licensed slaughter houses in the district remained closed throughout the year.

The following food stuffs from shops, stalls and vehicles were found to be unfit for human consumption:—

109 lbs. Home killed Beef.....	Tuberculosis.
1820 lbs. Home killed Beef.....	Bone taint.
32 lbs. Home killed Beef.....	Severe and extensive bruising.
8 lbs. Bovine kidney and kidney fat.....	Internal decomposition.
62 lbs. 1 Carcase imported Mutton...	Caseous lymphadenitis.
19 lbs. Home killed Mutton.....	Internal decomposition.
6 lbs Home killed Pork.....	Decomposition.
28 lbs. Bacon.....	Decomposition.
93 lbs. Cooked Ham.....	Decomposition.
38 lbs Pork Sausages.....	Sour and affected with mould.
4 lbs. Luncheon Meat.....	Decomposition.
56 tins Meat products.....	Decomposition.
17 Imported Rabbits.....	Decomposition.
4 lbs. Pork Galantine.....	Affected with mould.
4 lbs. Pork Pie.....	Affected with mould.
125 tins Fish Paste.....	Decomposition.
20 tins Vegetables.....	Decomposition.
4 tins Soup.....	Decomposition.
11 tins Fish.....	Decomposition.
3 tins Milk.....	Decomposition.
106 tins Fruit.....	Decomposition.
22 tins Jam.....	Decomposition.
94 pkts. Cheese Spread.....	Excessive mould and decomposition.
1 box Cheese.....	Decomposition.
17 lbs. Cheese.....	Excessive mould and infested with mites.
30 lbs. Dried Prunes.....	Affected with mould.
$\frac{1}{2}$ gallon Vitacream.....	Affected with dirt.
59 tins Various foodstuffs.....	Decomposition.
2 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons Quaker Oats.....	Damaged by sea water.

The quantity of meat condemned as being affected with bone taint is greater than the amount condemned in 1951 (183 lbs. imported and 594 lbs. home killed); it is also an interesting fact that the whole of this meat was home killed.

All condemned foodstuffs suitable for animal feeding, other than that required to be returned to the wholesaler or dealt with by the Ministry of Food, were collected and disposed of for that purpose at Public Institutions. Foodstuffs not suitable for animal feeding were burned or buried.

Food & Drugs Act 1938:

The County Council are responsible for the administration of the relevant Sections of the Act as applied to food adultera-

tion, and I am indebted to Mr. C. O. Perry, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures, for the following report on the number of samples taken in the district in the year 1952:—

<i>Article.</i>	<i>Genuine.</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory.</i>
Milks	137	1
Butter and other Fats	5	—
Drugs	4	—
Sausage and other meat products	13	—
Spirits	10	—
Other Foods	17	—

The 137 Milk Samples contained an average of 3.75% of Milk Fat and 8.75% Non-Fatty Solids.

Unsatisfactory Samples:

A sample of milk was purchased from a producer at Blackfield on the 24th July, 1952 and certified to contain 8.7% of added water. Proceedings were taken and a fine of £5 plus £2. 2s. 0d. costs were imposed (Total £7. 2s. 0d.).

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The production of milk is supervised by Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. All other dairy premises are the responsibility of the Local Authority and it will be seen that a great deal of attention has been given to this important food.

The following Licences were issued by the District Council:—

- 12 Dealers Licences for Tuberculin Tested milk.
- 16 Dealers Licences for Pasteurised milk.
- 2 Dealers Licences for Sterilised milk.
- 1 Dealers Licence for Accredited milk.
- 4 Supplementary Licences for Tuberculin Tested milk.
- 5 Supplementary Licences for Pasteurised milk.
- 1 Pasteuriser's Licence (issued on behalf of the County Council).

The total number of Registered Producers at the end of the year was 303.

In regard to Pasteurising Licences, the Council agreed to accept delegation of powers under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949. Under these Regulations, the Council are responsible on behalf of the County Council for the issue of the necessary Licences to operate Pasteurising Plants, and for their supervision and the taking of samples. Only one plant is in operation; it is of the "Holder" type, i.e., the milk is retained at a temperature of not less than 145°F and not more than 150°F for at least 30 minutes and immediately cooled to a temperature of not

more than 50°F. Indicating and recording thermometers are installed to register the temperatures at which the milk is retained and to which the milk is cooled.

39 Samples of milk were taken at irregular intervals from the plant at various points in the process and in course of retail delivery. All satisfied the methylene blue and phosphatase tests. Copies of the results of these tests are sent each month to the Ministry of Food, Milk Division.

111 Samples (an increase of 6 over 1951) of milk were taken during the year, with the following results:—

	<i>Number of Samples.</i>	<i>Satisfactory.</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory.</i>
Pasterised	... 88	88	—
Tuberculin Tested	... 3	2	1
			(for meth. blue)
Ungraded	... 19	18	1
Accredited	... 1	1	(for meth. blue)

3 Tuberculin Tested, 1 Accredited and 17 Ungraded samples were submitted for biological examination (guinea pig test) for evidence of tuberculosis and brucellosis (undulant fever) - all of which were negative.

Of all the animal diseases which can affect our milk supply, tuberculosis is the most important, the bovine type of organism being frequently responsible for non-pulmonary tuberculosis in man.

Brucellosis or undulant fever has been recognised for more than thirty years as a milk borne disease and medical research suggests there is a slow but steady increase in the incidence of this disease, and further research relating to the incidence of undulant fever in man is definitely indicated.

The object, therefore, in submitting samples for biological examination is for the detection of the causative organisms of these two diseases in milk and for the prevention of the sale of such infected milk in the district.

In this direction, it is also pleasing to note that in the control of tuberculosis, there has been an increase in the number of tuberculin tested herds in the district, 27 more than in 1951, making a total of 133. The number of producers in the district as given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is 303.

Much progress was also made by the Verderers of the New Forest for the introduction of Byelaws prohibiting cattle depasturing on the New Forest until they have passed a Tuberculin Test. It is anticipated that the byelaws will come into force in the Autumn of 1953.

Opinions as to the need for heat treatment of milk vary. The concensus of medical opinion, however, holds that such

treatment as an adequate safeguard is at present essential from a public health point of view, an opinion to which I subscribe, and I am pleased to report that the sale of pasteurised milk in the district is on the increase.

Distribution of milk has been satisfactory and all dairies have been kept in a reasonable manner.

Section 20, Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949:

The case taken under this Section and reported upon last year was cleared in February. There was no claim for compensation.

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES.

One hundred and seventy-three complaints of nuisances were received and 1,001 inspections and visits made in connection therewith.

One was found to be unjustified, and one not the responsibility of the Public Health Department.

The following had been abated at the end of the year:—

House defects	...	...	...	52
Defective sanitary fittings	...	...	...	25
Drainage	...	...	...	65
Insanitary accumulations	...	...	...	4
Ditches and water courses	...	...	...	7
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	8
				—
			Total	162
				—

It was only found necessary to serve one Statutory Notice, which had not been complied with at the end of the year.

Tarmacadam Plant - Emission of Dust:

No complaints were received against this plant. Screening and dust arrestment devices were satisfactorily maintained.

Tar Distillation:

The conditions as reported upon in my last report have been maintained and no complaints were received.

Smoke Abatement:

During the year 111 observations were made of the industrial undertakings in the district. No statutory action was considered necessary. The attention of the management of one undertaking was drawn to the emission of excessive smoke from a wood offal burning furnace for steam raising. A new design furnace and improved cyclone arrangements are to be

installed. The installations are, in the main, used for steam raising, the fuels used being pitch, fuel oil, coal, wood offal, and surplus light hydro carbon gases.

The district can be said to have no real industrial smoke problem at present.

Petroleum Refinery - Fawley.

Since the enlarged refinery has been in operation (September 1951) complaints of smell and noise attributable to the Refinery processes have been received, particularly from the Dibden Purlieu area, via the Parish Council. The suppression of obnoxious gases from undertakings of this nature is the direct responsibility of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (formerly under the Ministry of Health) being a "specified works" within the Alkali, etc., Works Regulations Act.

The Ministry's Inspector for the district is Doctor E. J. Mahler to whom all complaints are referred. Whilst action for eliminating the emission of these obnoxious gases is his responsibility, their effect, if any, upon the public health of the district is a matter coming within my duties and that of my Officers. A close liaison is maintained with Doctor Mahler and observations are submitted to him periodically, and he in turn keeps me fully informed of progress at the Refinery.

He has assured me that from the outset all known potential sources of smell and all known emission of offensive gases were carefully considered, and appropriate remedial measures installed.

It was hardly to be expected that a new refinery of this size could be brought into operation without some difficulties being encountered and there have been mishaps leading to emissions of offensive gases at times. These difficulties have been successively overcome, resulting in steady improvement during the course of the year. I am satisfied the Company are fully employing the "best practicable means" to prevent smell emission.

In regard to the complaints of noise, there is no general power conferred upon the Ministry or the District Council (under Public Health Act 1936) to deal with nuisances from noise and I am informed that any remedial action must be one at Common Law as between the Complainant(s) and the Company. I would, however, mention that although no statutory action could be taken, the complaint was discussed with the Company.

The boiler furnaces are the chief source of the noise. A number of expedients were tried to reduce it, without any marked degree of success.

FACTORIES.

Premises	No. in Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power	138	125	11	—
Factories without mechanical power ...	27	17	—	—
Totals	165	142	11	—

Cases in which defects were found :

Particulars	Number of Defects				Defects entailing Prosecution
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	13	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
Insufficient	2	1	—	1	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	19	15	—	4	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Lack of wholesome water supply	1	1	—	—	—
Other Offences	5	1	—	—	—
Total ...	40	22	—	5	—

15 Outworkers were employed in the district during the year.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951:

There were no business undertakings in the district coming within the scope of the Act.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 & 1951 - Section 47.

No statutory action was taken under this section during the year. Three cases were considered, but in each case did not fulfil the requirements of the Act. The first case, an elderly man living alone, became seriously ill during the time he was under observation, and was admitted to hospital where he died.

The second case, another elderly man, was removed for observation under the Lunacy Acts. The third case was also an elderly man, partially blind and living alone. In this case,

help was provided by the Blind Association. He became very ill towards the end of the year, however, and was admitted to hospital.

Summary of Inspections:

Nature of Inspections						Number made
Inspection of Shops	...	...	...	...	...	5
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	110
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	480
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	236
Cesspool Cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	85
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	34
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	1,011
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	723
Housing	...	...	...	...	...	615
Food and Drugs (Food preparing premises, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	260
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	119
Inspection of Food	...	...	...	...	...	74
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	142
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	111
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	12
National Assistance Act	...	...	...	...	...	8
Movable Dwellings and Camp Sites	...	...	...	...	...	141
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	...	111
Smell and Noise Observations	...	...	...	...	...	31
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	4
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	1,038
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	461
<i>Samples:</i>						
Water	...	...	...	...	...	83
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	111
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	213
Ice Lollies	...	...	...	...	...	24
Swimming Bath Water	...	...	...	...	...	21
River Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	4
<i>Specimens:</i>						
In connection with the investigation of Infectious Diseases						844
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	7,120

DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

THE PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Parish	Total									
	P.	NP.	Tuber-culosis	Poli-o-myelitis	Neo-O.	natourum	Erys-i-pelas	Measles	Whoop-Cough	Dysen-tery
Beaulieu	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Boldre	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Bramshaw	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Brockenhurst	...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	30
Copythorne	...	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	40
Denny Lodge	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dibden	...	3	—	1	—	1	6	43	4	66
East Boldre	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Eling	...	4	—	11	—	—	1	45	20	—
Exbury	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Fawley	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Lyndhurst	...	—	—	2	—	1	—	87	1	—
Marchwood	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	44	—
Minstead	...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Netley Marsh	...	—	—	1	1	—	—	7	2	6
Rhinefield	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Sway	...	17	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
Totals	...	28	—	22	2	2	1	2	190	193
									74	—
									12	—
									17	—
									—	543

Notifiable Cases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year:—

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	28	1	—
Poliomyelitis (paralytic) ...	2	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	193	1	—
Measles	190	4	—
Dysentery	74	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	12	12	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	17	—	8
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
TOTALS	519	19	8

Comparative Rates with England and Wales:—

Disease	Number Notified	Rate per 1,000 population	
		New Forest R.D.C.	England and Wales
Scarlet Fever	28	0.62	1.53
Poliomyelitis (paralytic) ...	2	0.04	0.06
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	0.02	—
Erysipelas	2	0.04	0.14
Whooping Cough ...	193	4.28	2.61
Measles	190	4.21	8.86
Dysentery	74	1.64	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	0.03
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	12	15.2*	17.87*
Food Poisoning	—	—	0.13
Pneumonia	17	0.37	0.72
Diphtheria	—	—	0.01
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Para-typhoid Fever	—	—	0.02

* Rate per 1,000 live and still births.

Although this was not a "measles" year, the number notified was again high. A considerable number of cases of whooping cough were also notified. There were no deaths from either cause. The year was notable for an increase in the number of cases of Dysentery and Scarlet Fever.

Of the 74 cases of dysentery, 44 were from a village having a population of approximately 1,000. On the 18th February, a case of dysentery was notified - a boy aged 5.

Information from the Doctor in attendance suggested a high incidence of diarrhoea in the village, mainly among School children. Immediate investigation was therefore commenced to ascertain the extent of the infection. Enquiries were commenced at the School on the 19th February, and a list of children absent during the term obtained from the Head-mistress. The Department was also notified daily of any children absent. The families of these children were visited and specimens for bacteriological examination obtained.

Dairy and other food premises were also investigated and General Practitioners in the district were circulated and asked to notify any cases of diarrhoea occurring in their practice.

At the end of the first week of investigation, 14 families comprising 42 persons, had been found giving a history of diarrhoea among one or more members of the family. Of this number bacteriological examination of specimens submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Southampton, confirmed that 30 were excreting *Shigella sonnei*. The earliest known diarrhoea in a child was ascertained to be 23rd December, 1951. The family doctors of all positive cases were notified and appropriate treatment given.

20 of the 30 positive cases were children attending the School. The evidence, therefore, suggested a reservoir of infection had been established at the School. In consultation with Dr. Irene Hutchinson, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Southampton, it was decided to carry out investigation at the School as to the source and mode of spread of infection.

At the end of the third week, i.e., 1st March, follow-up of contacts and enquiries by the Department resulted in 27 families comprising 120 persons being under observation, of whom bacteriological examinations confirmed 44 to be excreting the bacillus of Sonnë dysentery. No further excreters were found or cases notified after the 8th March and the outbreak subsided. At this time a total of 29 families, comprising 130 persons, were under observation. The 44 positive cases were made up as follows:—

- 24 Children attending School "A".
- 3 Children attending other Schools.
- 5 Children under School age.
- 12 Adults.

The whole of the Staff at the School - teaching, kitchen, canteen and cleaning, were all found to be negative. While adults were more frequently symptomless carriers, infection in

young children more frequently involved symptoms as seen in the following table:—

Proportion of Cases to Carriers.

Age Groups	Cases	Carriers	Ratio Cases/Carriers
0—4 years	5	1	5 : 1
5—9 years	14	4	3.5 : 1
10—15 years	5	2	2.5 : 1
16 and over	3	8	0.37 : 1
ALL AGES ...	27	17	1.5 : 1

433 Specimens were submitted for examination. A few cases did not respond to treatment and continued excreting the organism after a full course of chemotherapy had been given. They did not clear up for six weeks.

Despite exhaustive search, no single source of infection was found. There was no evidence to incriminate any food or water supply. The principal source of the spread of the infection was the School, probably due to the fact that a number of cases of diarrhoea had occurred in children attending the School early in December. As many of the parents had not sought medical advice, a number of children had returned to School symptom-free, but still excreting the dysentery bacillus. As a result, infection had spread from child to child and adult and familial infection occurred as a result of contact with the children at home. In this direction it is important to note that Doctor Hutchinson isolated *Shigella sonnei* from samples of dust taken from the classrooms, from the floors of the sanitary conveniences, and from the seats and other parts of the bucket closets.

Inadequate provision of washing facilities and other hygienic and environmental defects also helped materially in promoting spread of the dysentery bacillus and consequently of the disease. These matters were discussed with the County Medical Officer and it is hoped there will be some material improvement in the near future.

20 cases also occurred during the same period in other parts of the district. Similar investigations and enquiries were made as in the previous cases. Here again, the source of infection was unrecognised. Evidence did not confirm any relationship with the former outbreak, nor with any food or drink.

The outbreak of Scarlet Fever commenced in October in a village having a population of approximately 2,000 inhabitants.

On the 28th October 9 cases were notified, all children aged between 5 and 9, and all attending the same School, with onsets varying between the 23rd and 27th.

Investigations were therefore commenced at the School and the cases and contacts followed up. From the evidence obtained it appeared a reservoir of infection existed at the School. In consultation with Doctor Irene Hutchinson, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Southampton, it was considered desirable to take nose and throat swabs from the Staff and pupils. The number of children on the Register at the time was 114, a large percentage of whom were absent. A total of 72 Staff and pupils were swabbed at the School on the 29th and those absent for no apparent reason or giving a history of sore throats, were swabbed, with the consent of their parents, at their homes.

Bacteriological examination of the swabs showed that 19 were positive for "haemolytic streptococci, Lancefield Group A". This is the organism causing Scarlet Fever, tonsillitis, etc. No member of the Staff was found to be carrying this streptococcus. Of the children with positive swabs, 7 gave a history of sore throat - the earliest ascertainable onset being 22nd October and this was a day before the onset of the first notified case. In view of the high incidence in cases of streptococcal throats among the children, it was decided to disinfect the school rooms especially to prevent any spread from infected dust. An attempt was made to exclude all cases, contacts and carriers of haemolytic streptococci until three consecutive negative swabs had been obtained, but co-operation was not always forthcoming and in some cases only one negative swab was obtained.

These measures, together with instruction in hygiene and isolation of contacts and carriers appeared to have stemmed the outbreak. On the 29th November, however, 3 more cases were notified - an adult aged 41, a boy aged 12, and a girl aged 8 - all members of the same household, from which the first case was notified. This was, no doubt, a familial infection. The family comprised 2 adults and 5 children, living in a three-bedroomed house, so that it can well be imagined that the isolation of the first case could not have been very effective. Again, on the 15th and 19th December, 3 more notifications were received - 2 boys aged 6 and a girl aged 5 - pupils at the School in question. The total number of cases at the end of the year had reached 17, involving 12 families and made up as follows:—

- 9 girls aged 5-8 attending School "A".
- 5 boys aged 6-7 attending School "A".
- 1 boy aged 12 attending School "B".
- 1 girl aged 3 years.
- 1 male adult aged 41 years.

All possible sources of infection were investigated. There was no evidence to incriminate any milk supplies. The outbreak, which continued at the end of the year, appeared to be due to case and carrier contact.

The remaining 11 cases were sporadic, occurring in five different parishes, and had no relationship with the previous outbreak.

The two cases of poliomyelitis notified recovered. For the fifth successive year, no case of diphtheria was notified, and for the first time in five years, no case of food poisoning was notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis are provided by the Regional Hospital Board. The preventive side and the care and after care of the tuberculous is the responsibility of the County Council. There are two Chest Clinics serving the area, at Totton and Christchurch.

The waiting period for admission to sanatorium has lessened. There has been a decrease in the number of new cases notified, and a small but continued decrease in the number of deaths.

New Cases and Mortality during 1952:

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1 ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
5 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 ...	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 ...	4	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
35 ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—
45 ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
55 ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	13	9	1	1	1	1	4	—

Comparability Table of the Number and Rate per 1,000 of the Population of New Cases and Deaths from Tuberculosis for the years 1936 - 1952:

Year	Population	New Cases		Deaths	New Cases Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Deaths Rate per 1,000 Pop.
		Pulm.	Non-Pulm.			
1936	35,050	18	10	17	0.8	0.5
1937	36,130	21	2	14	0.6	0.4
1938	36,660	13	5	24	0.5	0.6
1939	37,780	17	1	14	0.4	0.3
1940	38,100	27	3	17	0.8	0.4
1941	40,420	39	6	28	1.1	0.7
1942	40,010	24	7	19	0.8	0.5
1943	38,740	37	7	13	1.1	0.3
1944	38,720	18	9	42	0.7	1.1
1945	37,510	25	1	18	0.6	0.4
1946	39,130	25	5	14	0.7	0.3
1947	40,070	36	4	14	1.0	0.3
1948	41,200	30	6	13	0.8	0.3
1949	41,480	26	4	15	0.7	0.3
1950	44,200	34	13	12	1.1	0.3
1951	44,900	40	7	7	1.0	0.1
1952	45,090	22	2	6	0.5	0.1

Tuberculosis Care and After care:

During the year a Care and After Care Committee was formed at Totton covering the area dealt with by the Totton Chest Clinic. There is also in existence a similar committee having its headquarters at Christchurch, dealing with cases in the remaining parts. The object of the Committee is to provide tuberculosis patients with help and advice and additional comforts and nutrition.

Funds are obtained by way of a grant from the County Council and from voluntary contributions.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Immunisation has been continued on the same lines as previously. In regard to the treatment of children under 1 year of age, referred to in my last Report, satisfactory progress has been made towards achieving the target of immunising 75% of these children.

292 children (36.7%) in this age group received treatment compared with 59 (7.4%) in 1951. Primary treatment of children in all age groups was also improved - 533 as against 436 in 1951.

Booster treatments have again been maintained at a high level and there were very few refusals. The success of the Clinics held at the Schools has once more in no small measure been due to the ready co-operation and assistance of Head Teachers.

Statistical Details:

Number of children at 31st December, 1952 who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1936) :—

	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total Under 15
Age at 31/12/52 i.e. born in year	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1943- 1947	1938- 1942	
N'ber Immunised	53	483	469	541	575	2,694	2,302	7,057

Booster Injections:

At Surgeries and Child Welfare Clinics.....	313
At Clinics arranged at Schools.....	686
Total.....	999.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. HABGOOD,

Medical Officer of Health.

J. A. Howard & Son Ltd., Lyndhurst.